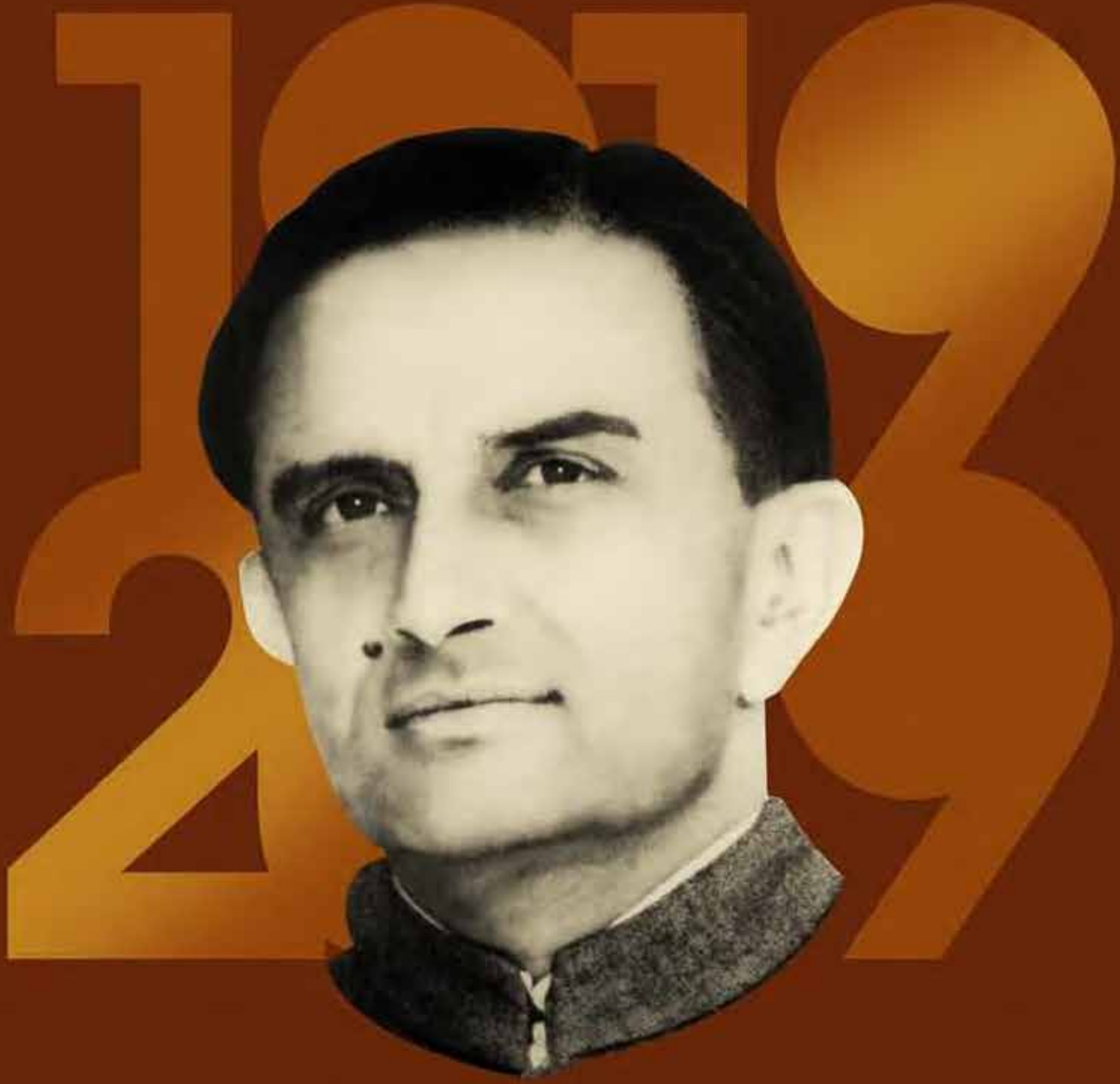
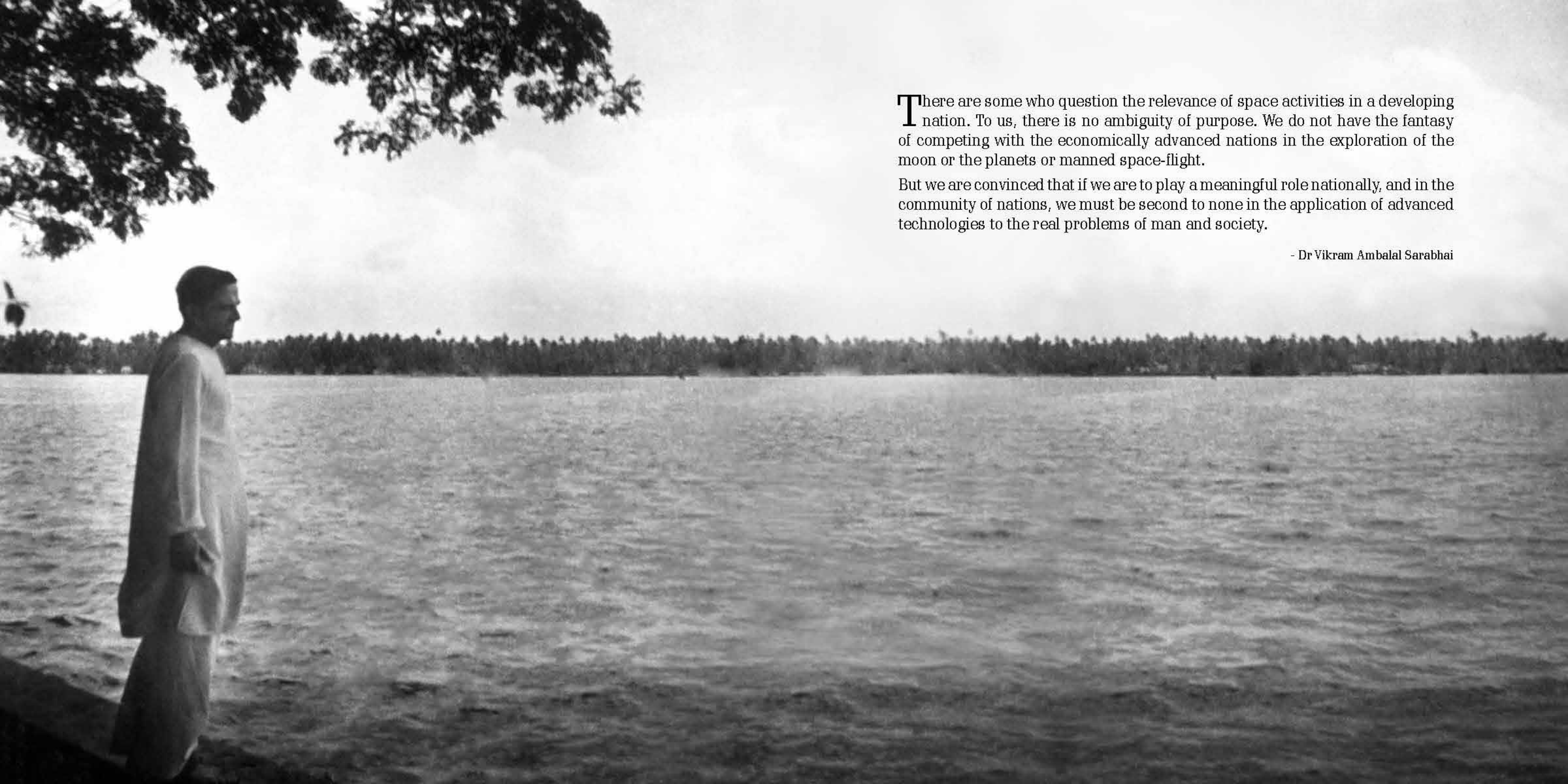




Dr. Vikram A Sarabhai
(1919-1971)



Dr. Vikram Ambalal Sarabhai
(1919-1971)



There are some who question the relevance of space activities in a developing nation. To us, there is no ambiguity of purpose. We do not have the fantasy of competing with the economically advanced nations in the exploration of the moon or the planets or manned space-flight.

But we are convinced that if we are to play a meaningful role nationally, and in the community of nations, we must be second to none in the application of advanced technologies to the real problems of man and society.

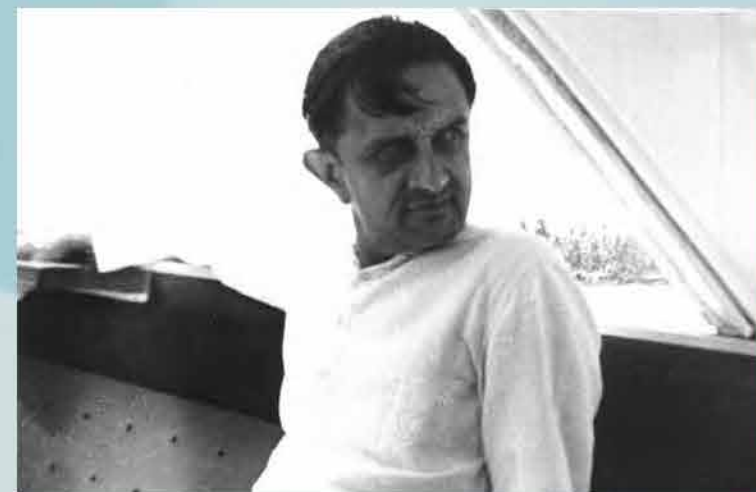
- Dr Vikram Ambalal Sarabhai

Vikram A Sarabhai

A multi-faced personality, an institution builder, industrialist, educator, research scholar, over and above a kind hearted person.



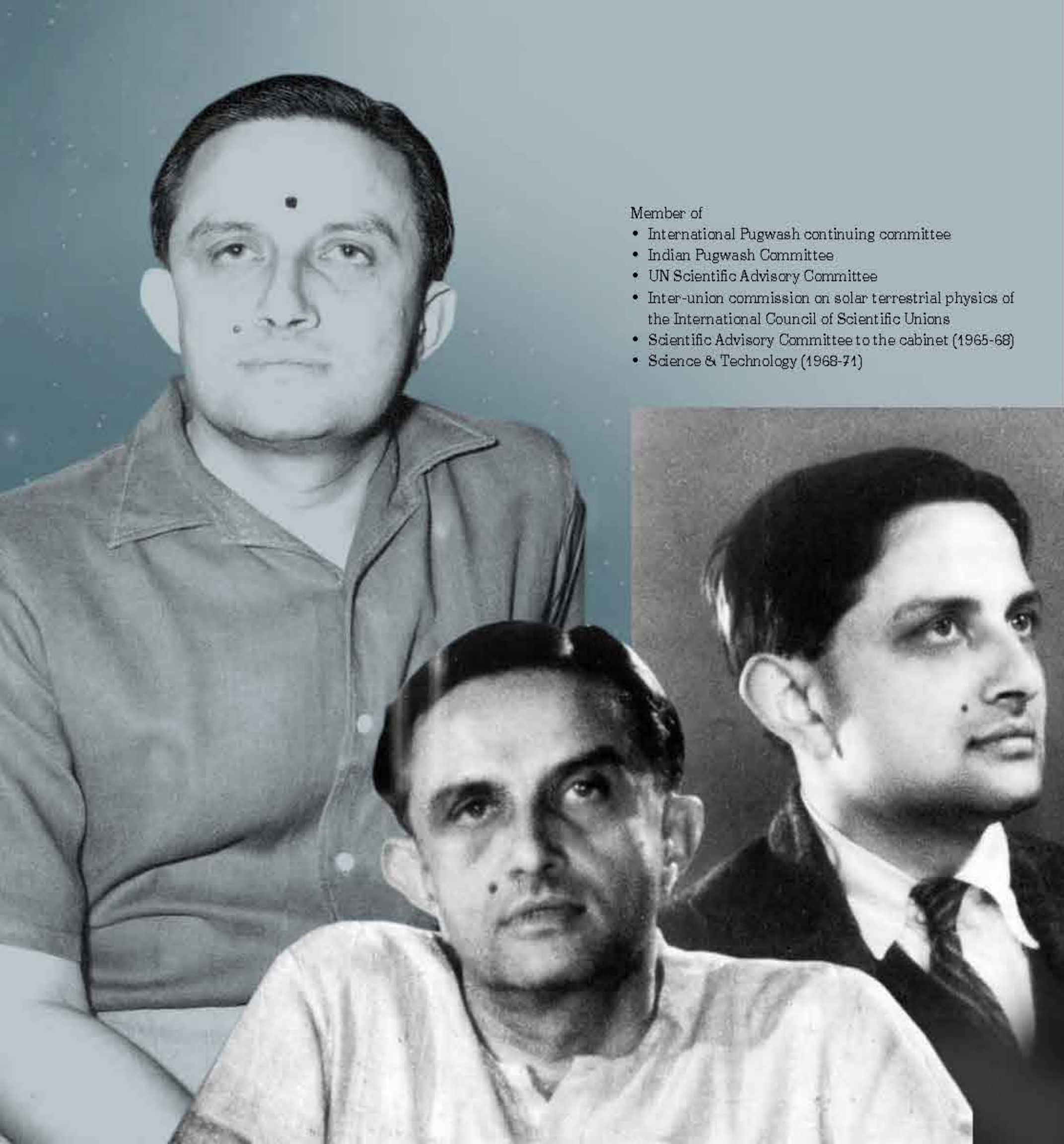
Born in 1919, Educated at Gujarat college, Ahmedabad and St. Johns College, Cambridge UK. Research Scholar on Cosmic Rays at IISc and completed research on Photo-fission at Cavendish laboratories, Cambridge.



Professor & Director, Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad and Director, Space Science & Technology Centre, Thumba. Visiting professor, laboratories for nuclear sciences MIT, Cambridge Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission, INCOSPAR, TERLS Advisory panel.

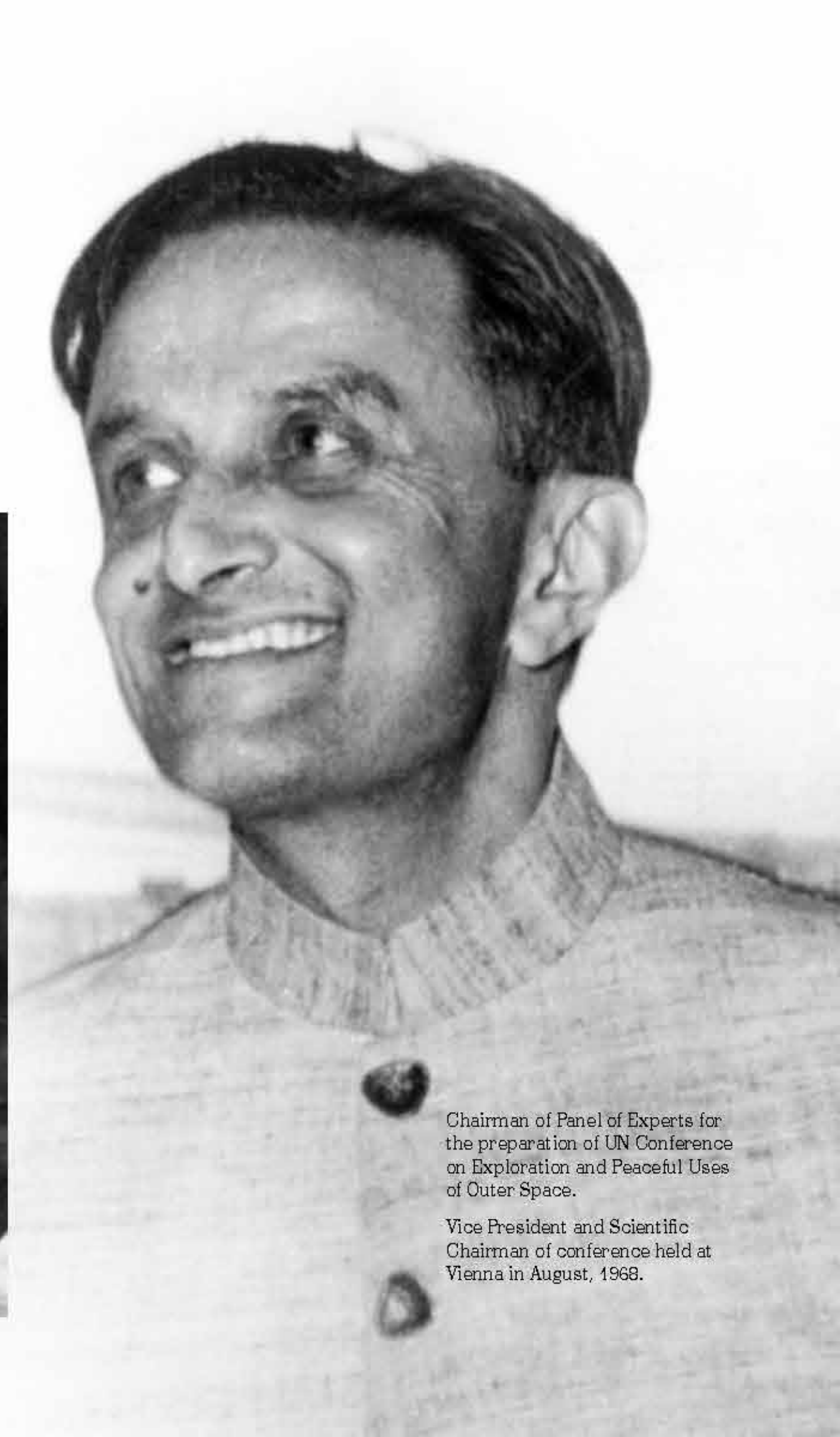
Chairman of Electronics of committee of Government of India
Honorary Director of ATIRA and IIM-A.





Member of

- International Pugwash continuing committee
- Indian Pugwash Committee
- UN Scientific Advisory Committee
- Inter-union commission on solar terrestrial physics of the International Council of Scientific Unions
- Scientific Advisory Committee to the cabinet (1965-68)
- Science & Technology (1968-71)



Chairman of Panel of Experts for the preparation of UN Conference on Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

Vice President and Scientific Chairman of conference held at Vienna in August, 1968.



Recipient of S S Bhatnagar Award (1962),
Padma Bhushan (1966),
Padma Vibhushan, posthumously (1972)
The International Astronomical Union
Australia, named BESSEL Crater in the
Sea of Serenity on the moon
as 'The Sarabhai Crater' in 1974



Sarala Devi



Ambalal Sarabhai

Vikram's ancestors were rich merchants
of Jain community. Vikram's father
Ambalal was Textile Industrialist and
mother Sarala Devi was housewife.



Ambalal assumed the family responsibilities at a very early age after his father's death. After his marriage he moved to a house called 'The Retreat'.

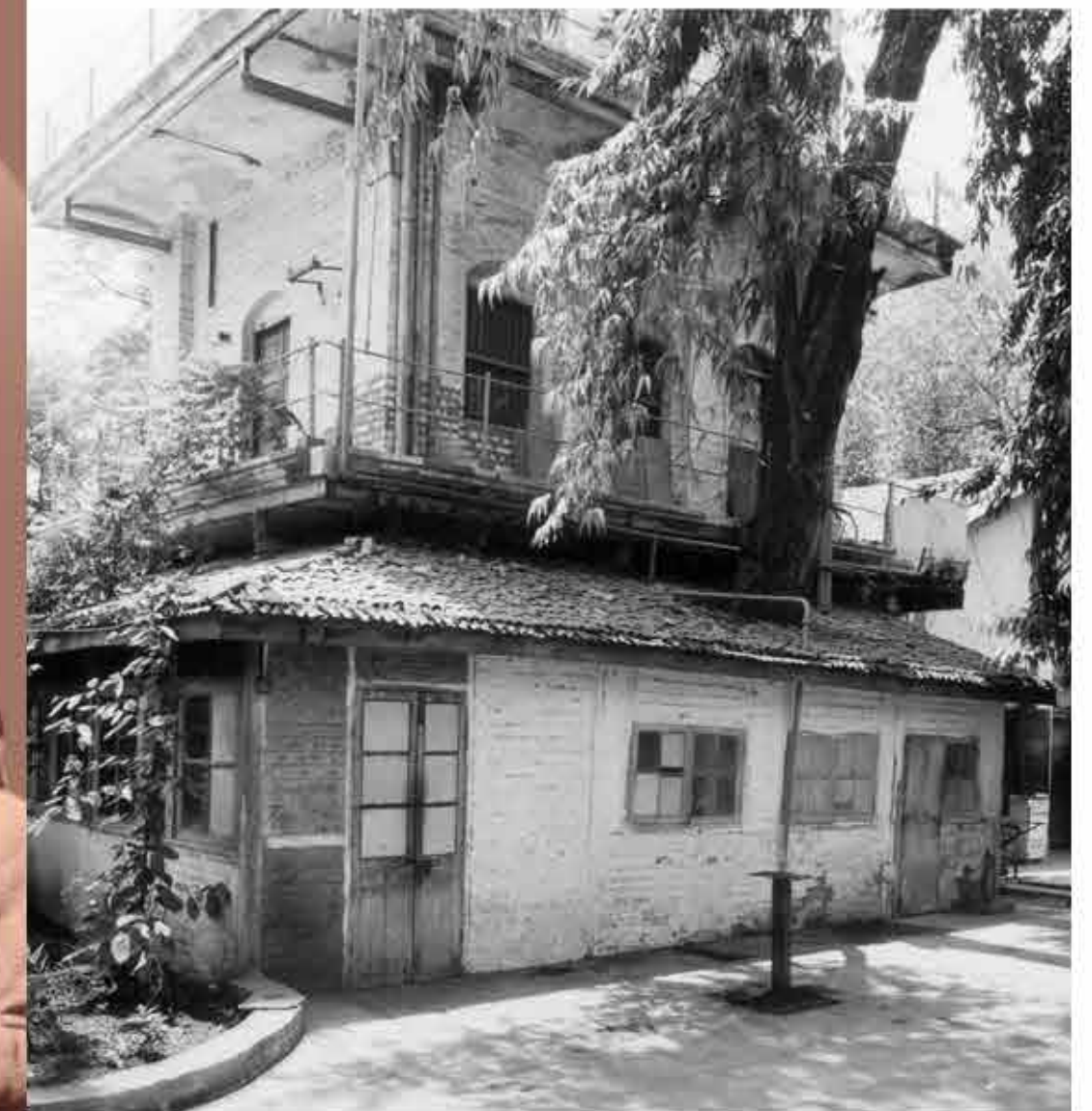
On 12th August, 1919 Vikram born with large head and big ears.



Vikram with sister Gita and Parents

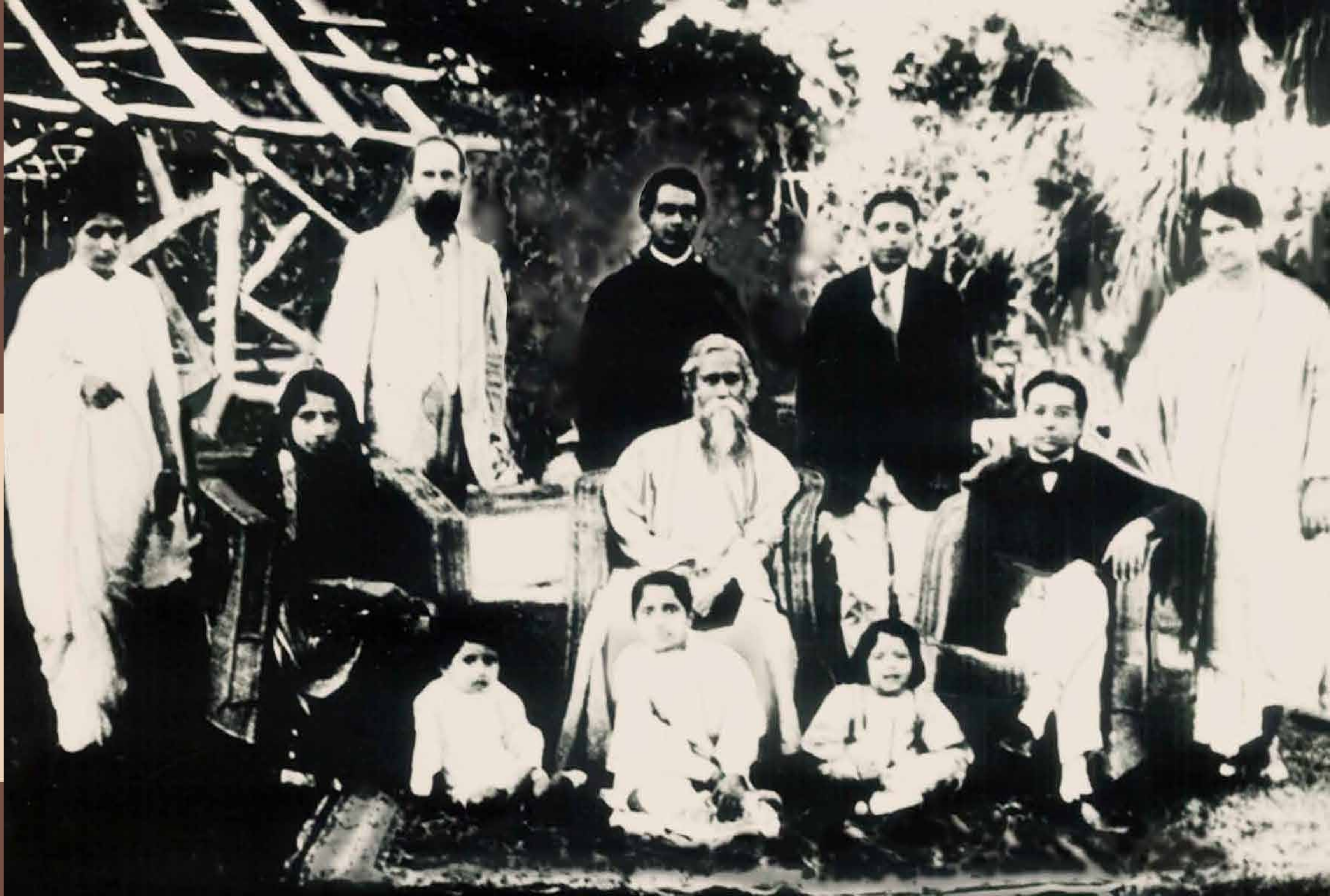


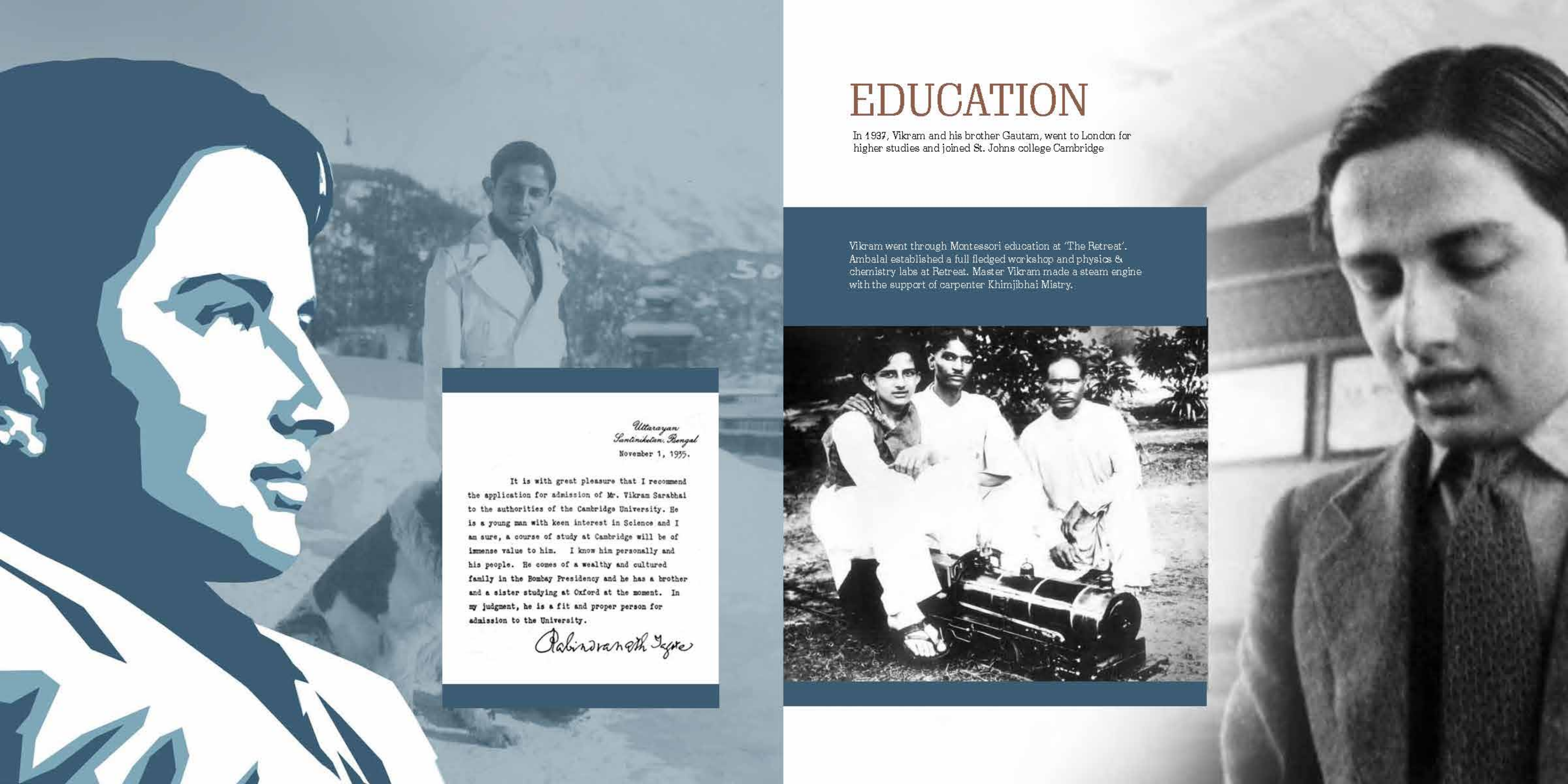
The Retreat - Sarabhai's Family Bungalow





Sarabhai Family with
Rabinranath Tagore in 1920
At the age of 7, when Vikram
was presented to Rabinranath
Tagore, he intently looked at
physiognamony and expression
and the shape of head, and quietly
remarked to the parents that he
would become a celebrity.

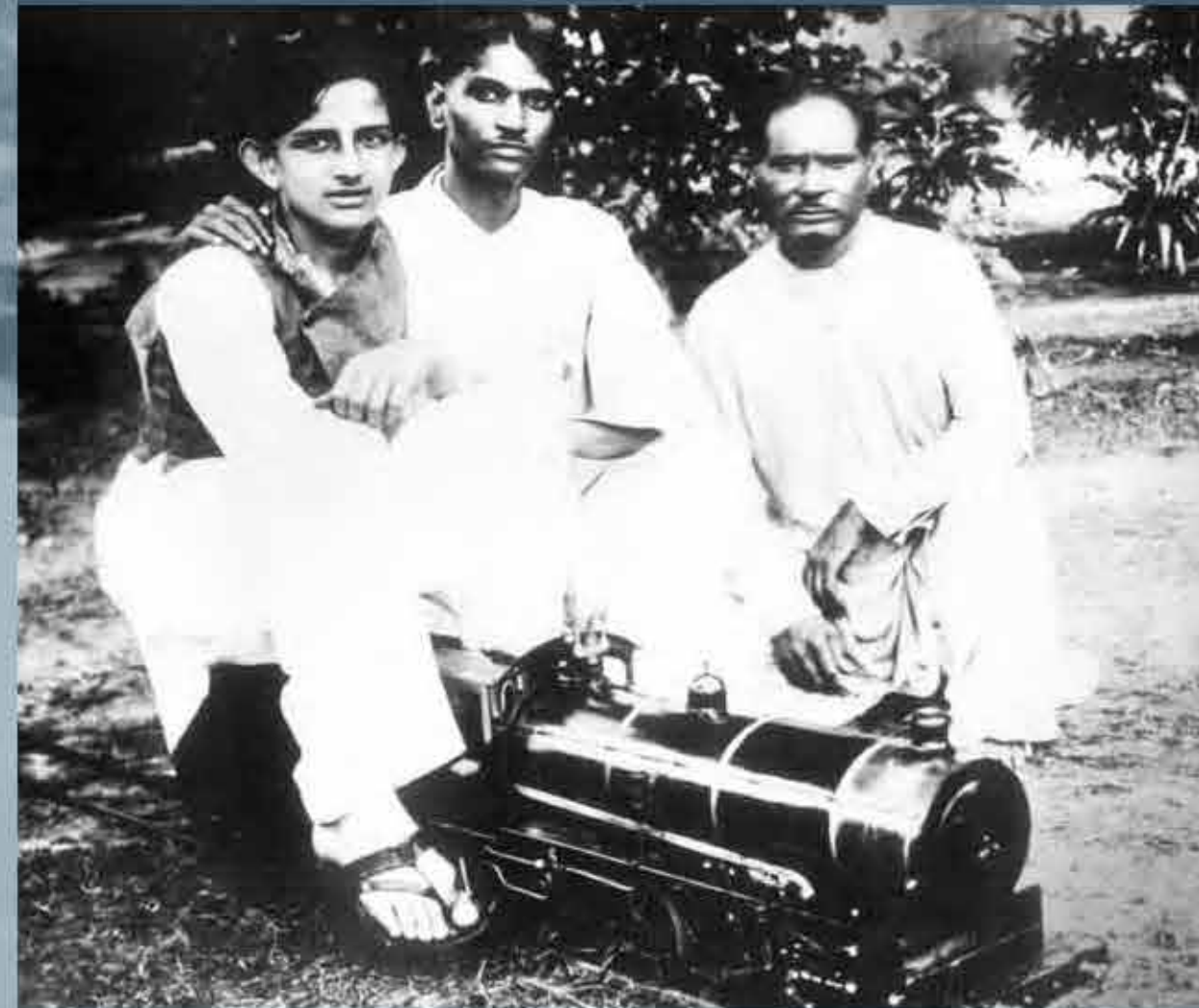




EDUCATION

In 1937, Vikram and his brother Gautam, went to London for higher studies and joined St. Johns college Cambridge

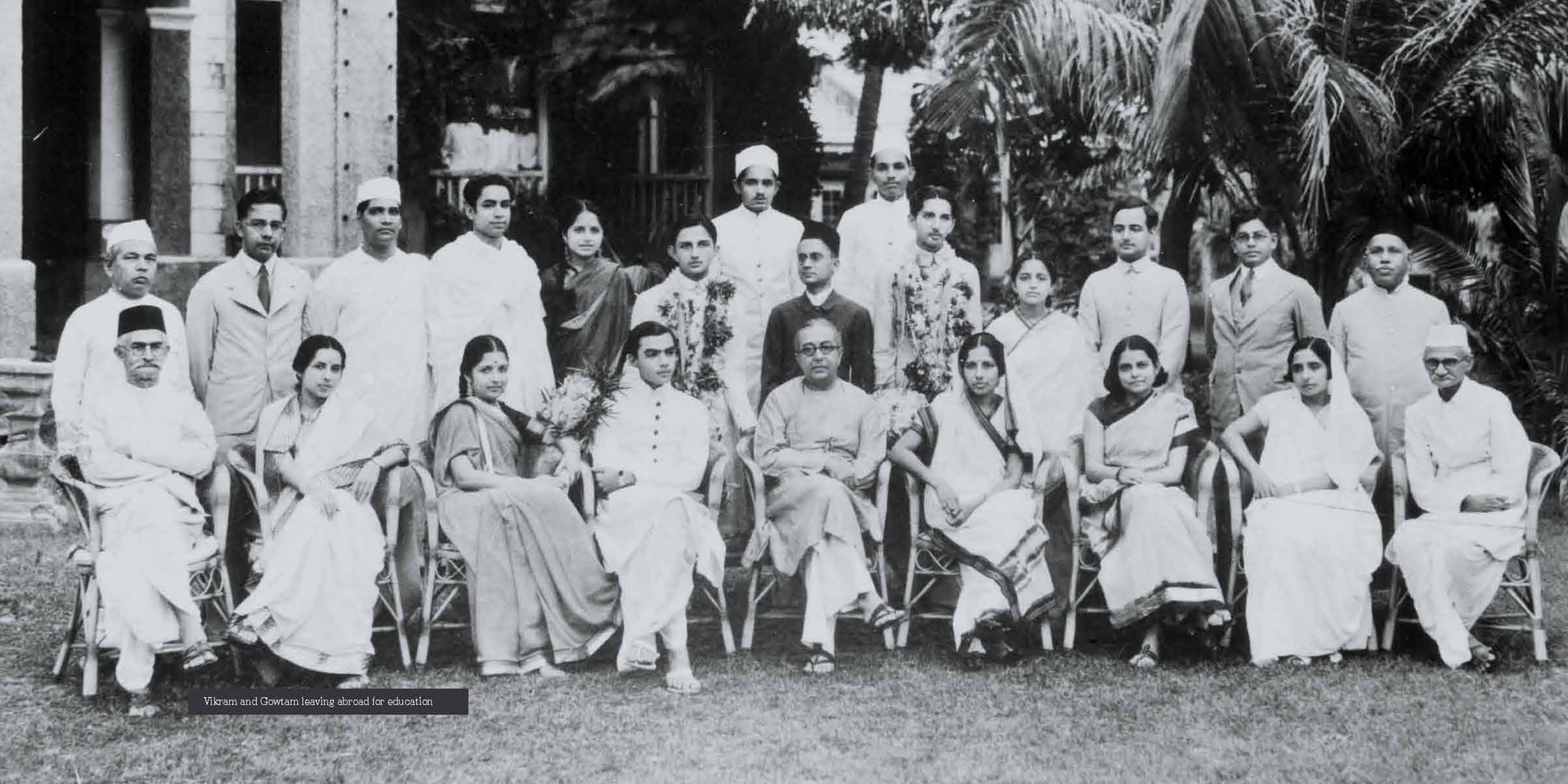
Vikram went through Montessori education at 'The Retreat'. Ambalal established a full fledged workshop and physics & chemistry labs at Retreat. Master Vikram made a steam engine with the support of carpenter Khimjibhai Mistry.



*Uttarayan
Santiniketan, Bengal
November 1, 1935.*

It is with great pleasure that I recommend the application for admission of Mr. Vikram Sarabhai to the authorities of the Cambridge University. He is a young man with keen interest in Science and I am sure, a course of study at Cambridge will be of immense value to him. I know him personally and his people. He comes of a wealthy and cultured family in the Bombay Presidency and he has a brother and a sister studying at Oxford at the moment. In my judgment, he is a fit and proper person for admission to the University.

Chandranath Ghose



Vikram and Gowtam leaving abroad for education



Vikram's guide was Sir CV Raman, Noble laureate at IISc from 1940-45. He introduced Vikram to the research on Cosmic Rays after Millikan's visit to India. Later Raman broke-out from IISc and started Raman Institute for which Vikram believed to help through Ahmedabad based industrialists.



Prof. Millikan and Sir CV Raman

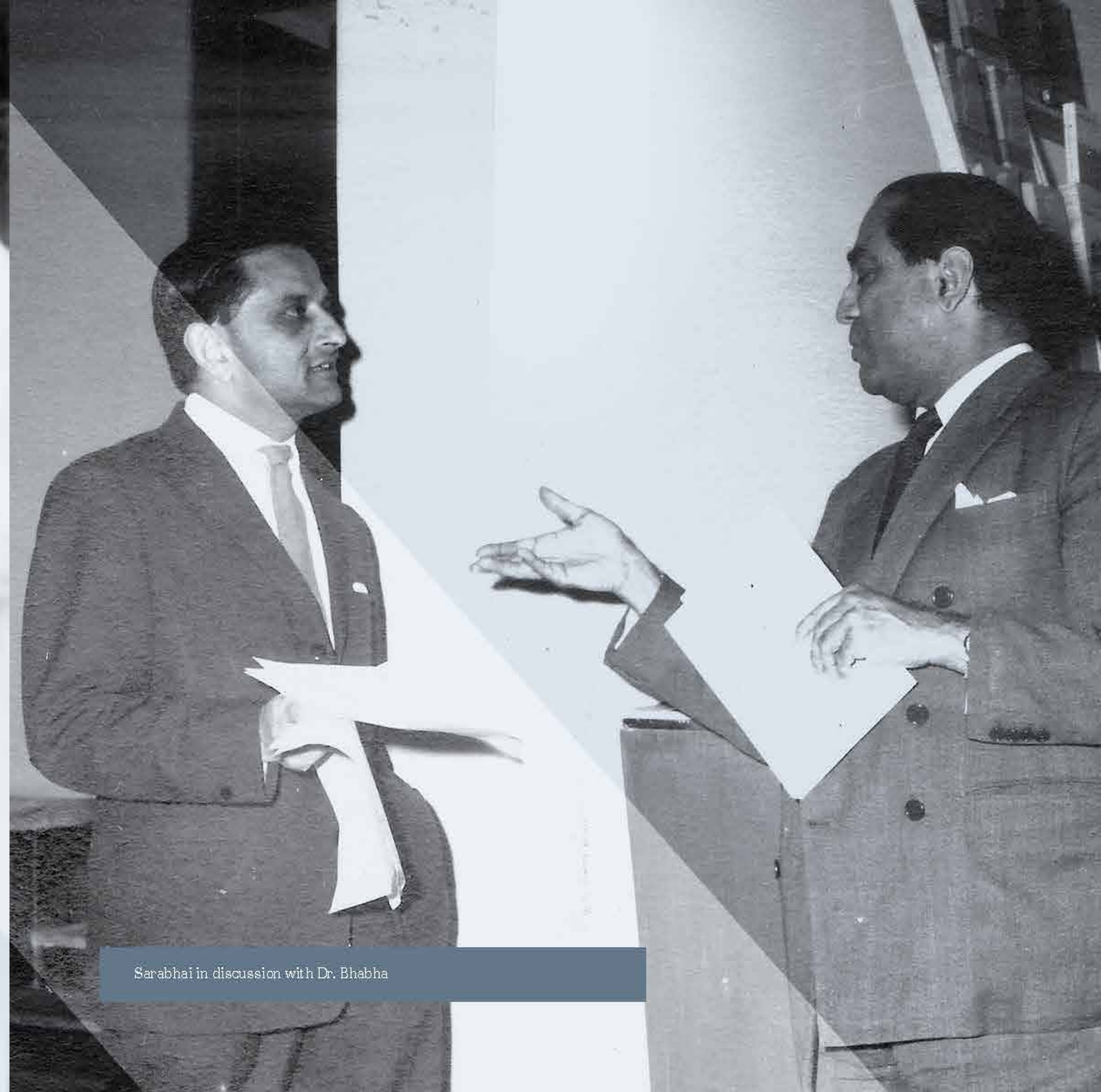
Prof Robert Millikan, an American Scientist and Nobel prize winner in 1923, who coined the name 'Cosmic Rays' came to India in 1937 to collect data related to his research.

Due to the second World War Vikram returned to India and joined IISc Bangalore to continue his studies from 1940-45 under the guidance of Noble Laureate Sir C.V. Raman. After professor Millikan's visit, Sir C.V. Raman introduced Vikram to him and advised Vikram to continue his research.





Sarabhai with mentors SS Bhatnagar, Sir CV Raman and Homi J Bhabha



Sarabhai in discussion with Dr. Bhabha



Seated: R. Ananthakrishnan, N.R. Tawde, R.K. Asundi, K.R. Ramanathan, V. Sarabhai, C.V. Raman, Miss Anna Mari, T.S. Subramanyam, L.A. Ramdas, N.K. Panikkar, A. Jayaraman.

Standing (Row 1): M.G.K. Menon, S. Paramasivan, E.N. Sreenivasiah, Gokhite, G.N. Ramachandran, P.K. Pisharoty, T. Radhakrishnan, Menon, M.S. Swaminathan, S. Ramaseshan, Venkatachar.

Top Row: C.N.R. Rao, C. Ramaswamy, Devendra Lal, Raja Ramanna, T.V. Desikachary, T.S. Sadasivan, S.P. Venkiteswaran, S. Chandrasekar



Vikram with Prof. Millikan, Sir CV Raman, and Homi J Bhabha



MARRIAGE

Vikram married to Mrinalini in 1942. Mrinalini's father was Swaminathan, a well-known lawyer from Chennai and mother Ammu was a social worker.



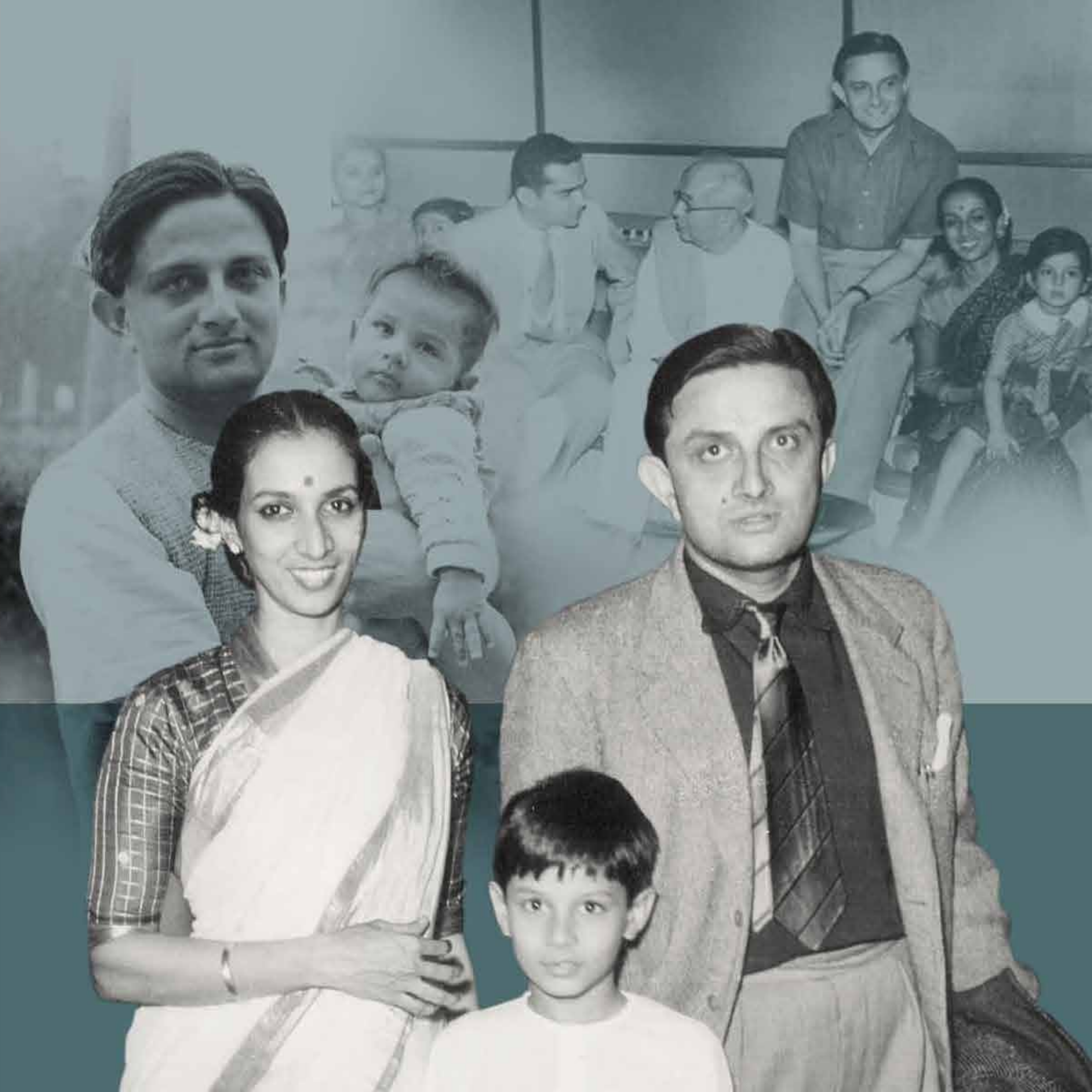


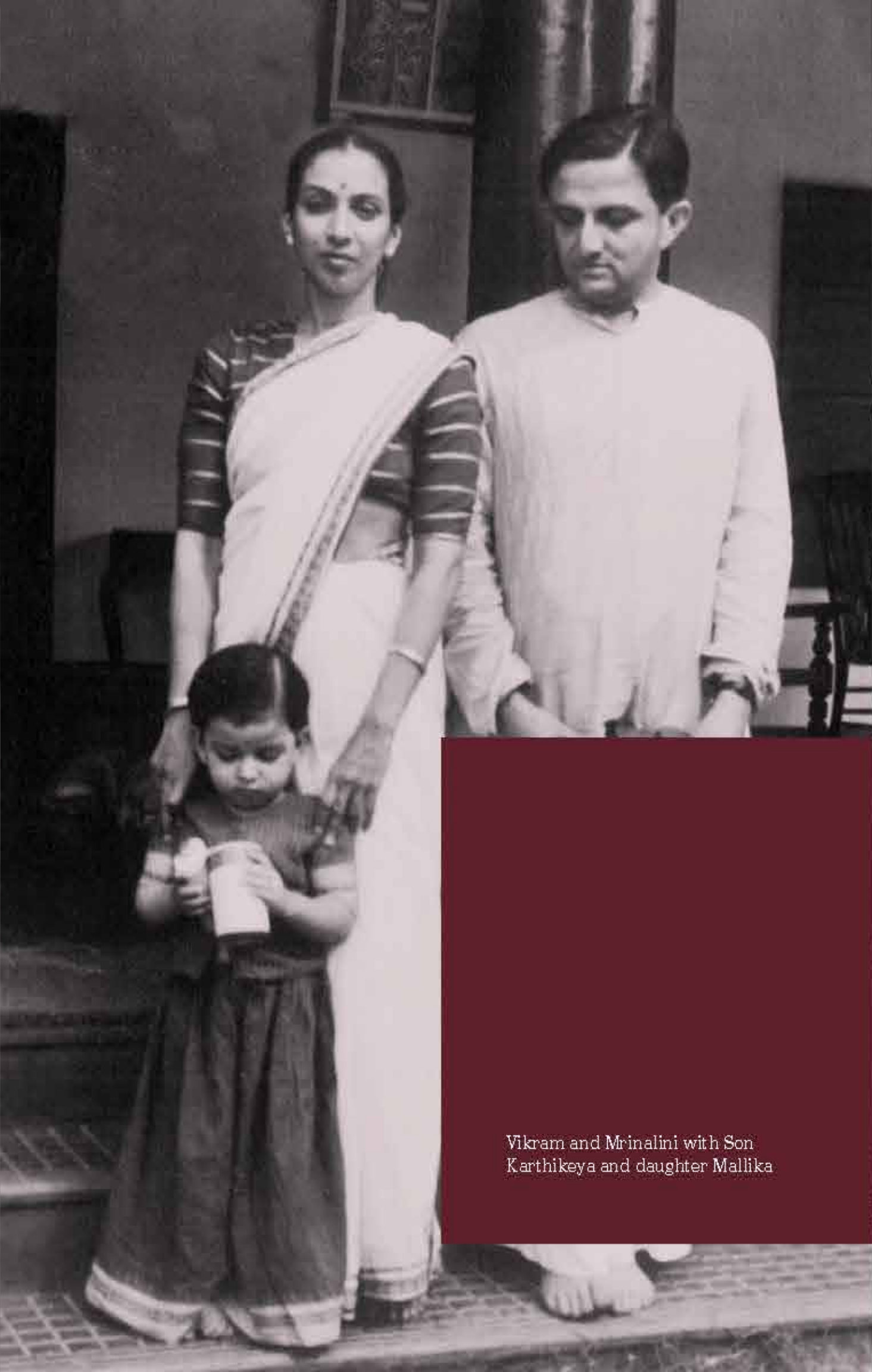
Picnics and long tours are very common in Sarabhai's family.





When Mrinalini was away on dance tours, Vikram was the mother for the children





Vikram and Mrinalini with Son
Karthikeya and daughter Mallika



Vikram welcoming the guests on the occasion of his son Kartikeya's marriage at his residence "Chidambaram".





Vikram with his mother Saraladevi.



Vikram with his mother Saraladevi and mother-in-law Annu Swaminadhan.



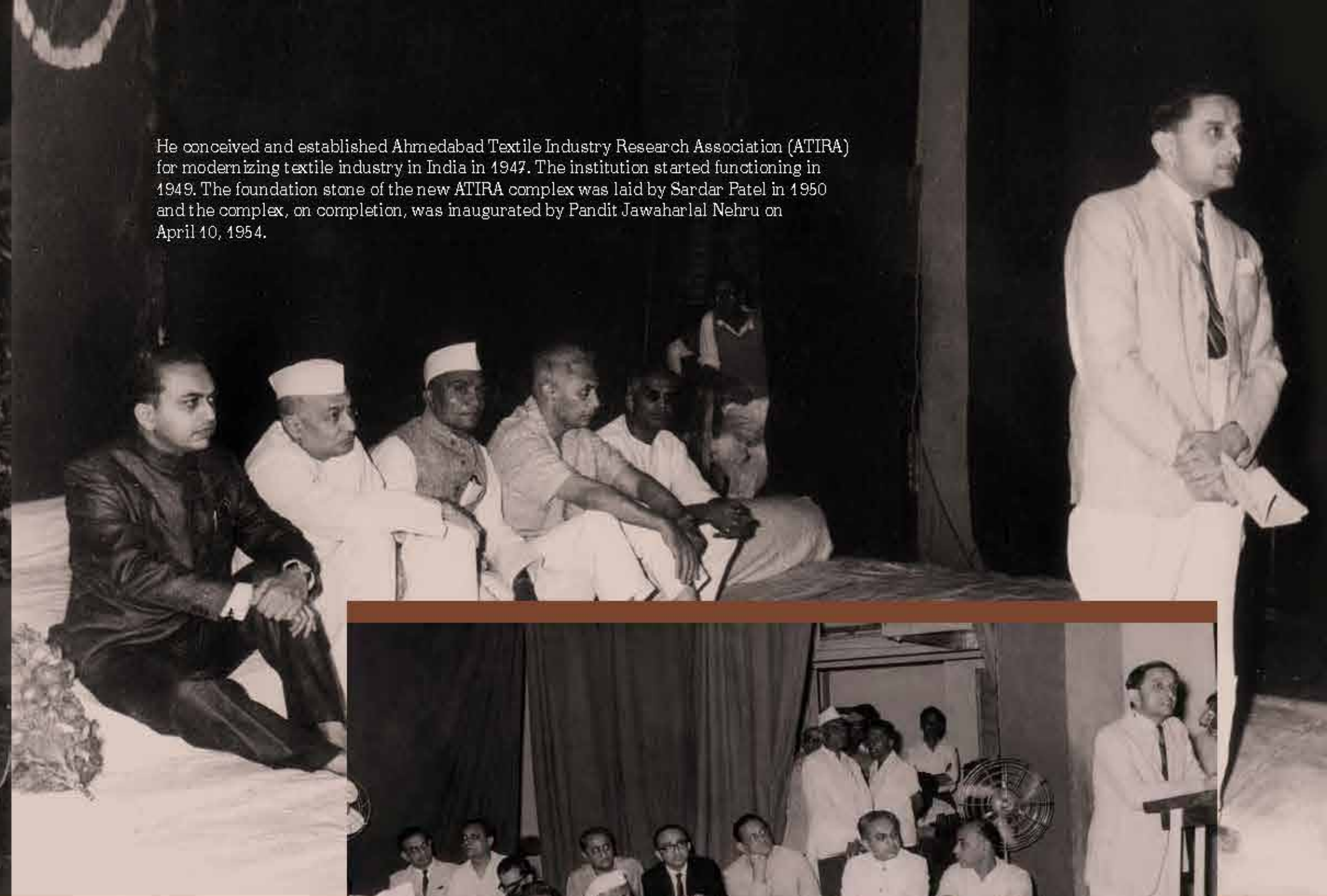
Sarabhai with Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru
during his visit to PRL in 1954



Scientists and delegates at Professor Sydney Chapman lecture series at PRL 1947.

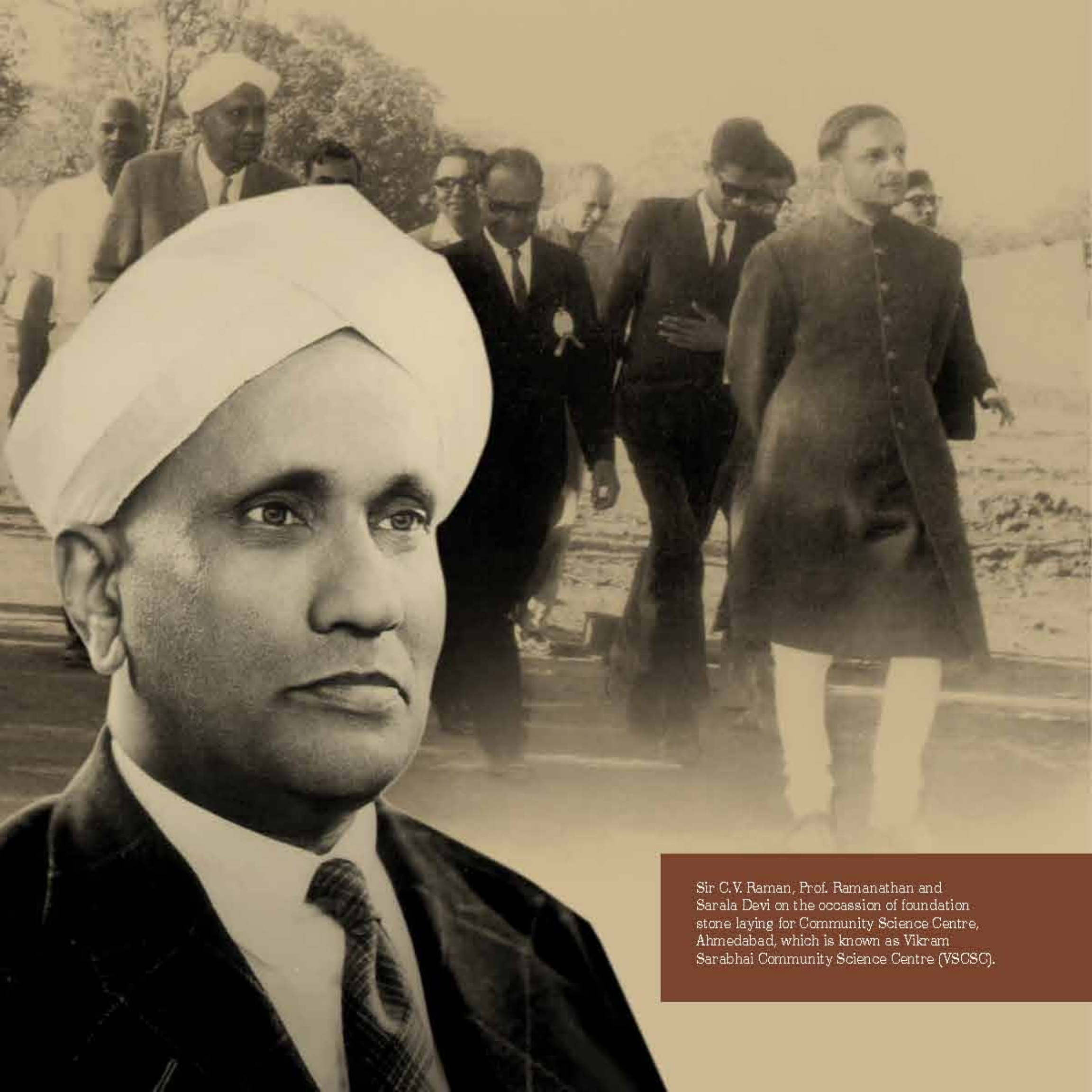


He conceived and established Ahmedabad Textile Industry Research Association (ATIRA) for modernizing textile industry in India in 1947. The institution started functioning in 1949. The foundation stone of the new ATIRA complex was laid by Sardar Patel in 1950 and the complex, on completion, was inaugurated by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru on April 10, 1954.

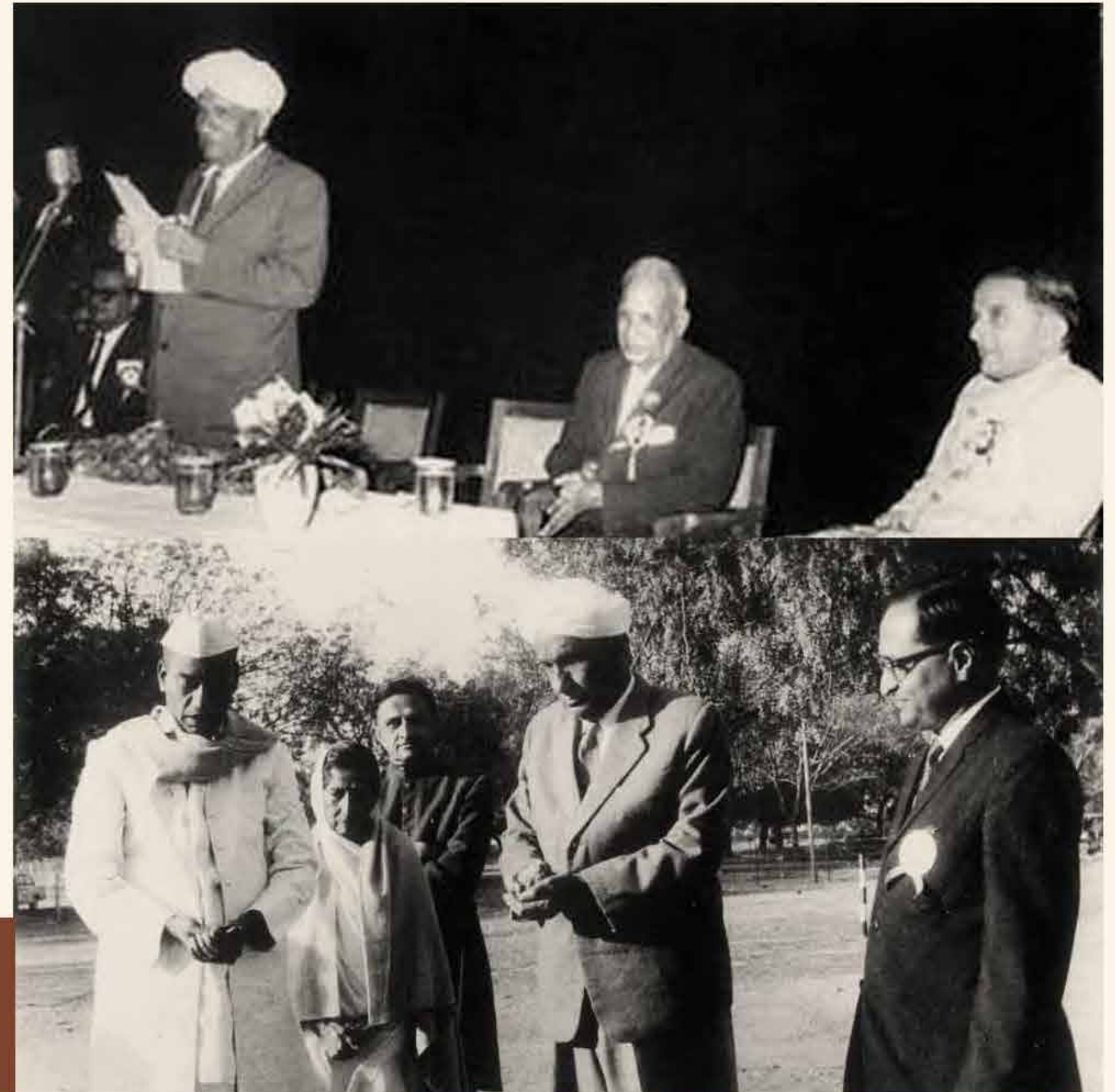


Speaking on textile conference





Sir C.V. Raman, Prof. Ramanathan and Sarala Devi on the occasion of foundation stone laying for Community Science Centre, Ahmedabad, which is known as Vikram Sarabhai Community Science Centre (VSCSC).





MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
LABORATORY FOR NUCLEAR SCIENCE
CAMBRIDGE 38, MASSACHUSETTS
Room 26-548.
19-7-62

My dear Patrick,
It was a real pleasure to meet you in London. Your New Statesman article has not yet been seen here. Can you send me a few reprints? I have been meeting Field and Holten - and Hilliker has invited me to the joint meeting of Harvard and MIT faculty on to discuss problems of armaments control.
In the meantime I have received the invitation from Prof. Rottblat to the London Conference. I enclose copies of his letter and of my reply. Is this alright?
With best regards,
Sincerely,
Vikram



Vikram with PMS Blackett, Homi J Bhabha and C F Powell at Jaipur Conference

Participants in the Sixteenth Pugwash Conference in Sopot. Members of the Continuing Committee are seated in the front row. Reading from left to right: Professor Bently Glass, Academician I. Malek, Professor I. Malecki, Dr. H. Marcovich, Professor T. Rotblat, Professor Peierla, Academician M. D. Millionshchikov, Professor B. T. Feld, Academician L. A. Artsimovitch, Professor Eugene Rabinowitch



Vikram with Mrs. Indira Gandhi in Pugwash conference at Udaipur, 1964



Vikram with Prime Minister Indira Gandhi at Krishi Darshan Programme at New Delhi, 1967



At United Nations as Scientific Chairman on Committee for Outer Space for Peaceful Purposes

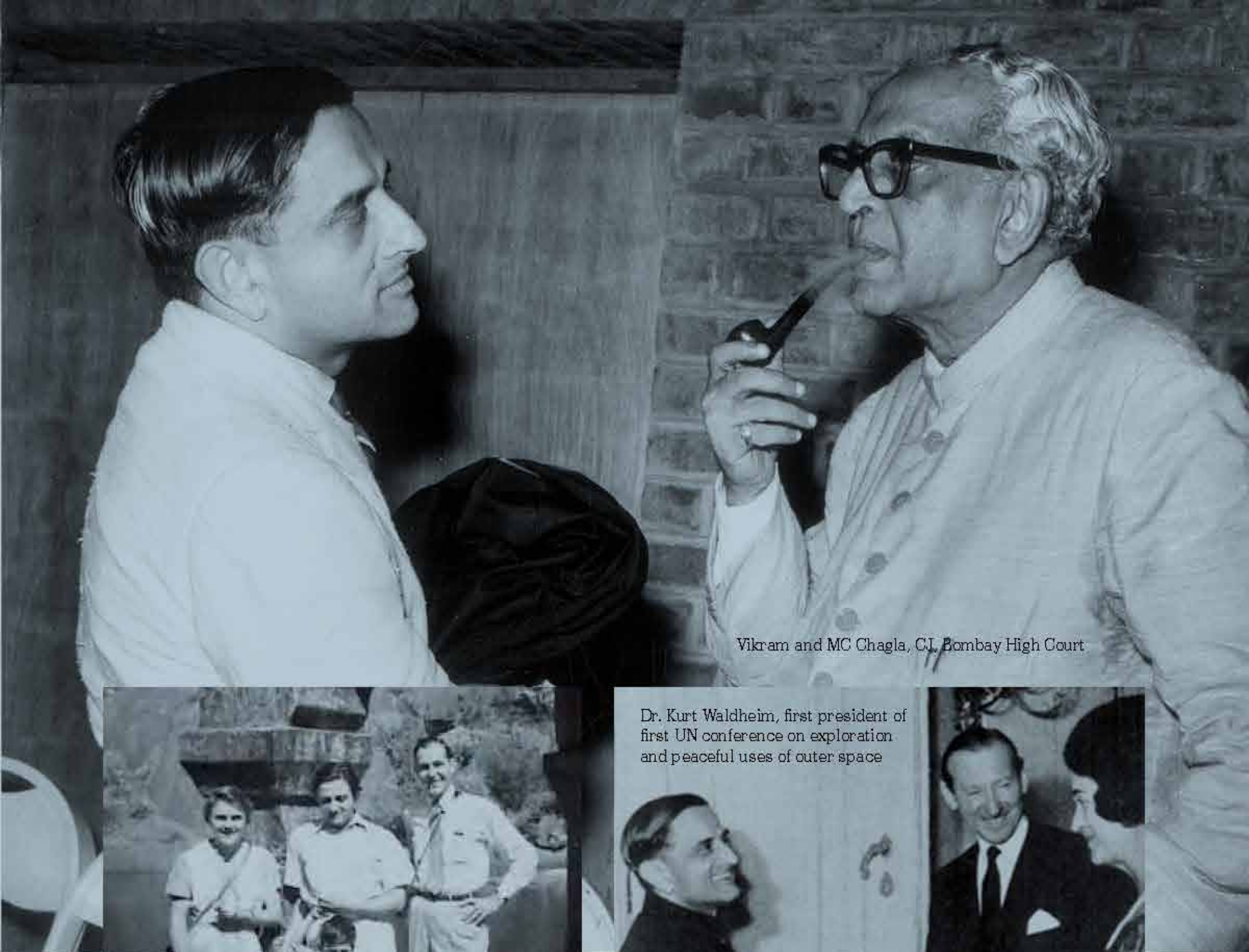




With Rajagopalachari



Pandit Ravishankar



Vikram and MC Chagla, CJ, Bombay High Court



Dr. Kurt Waldheim, first president of first UN conference on exploration and peaceful uses of outer space



Sarabhai, J R D Tata and Professor M G K Menon
with Indira Gandhi during the inauguration
of Homi J Bhabha Auditorium.



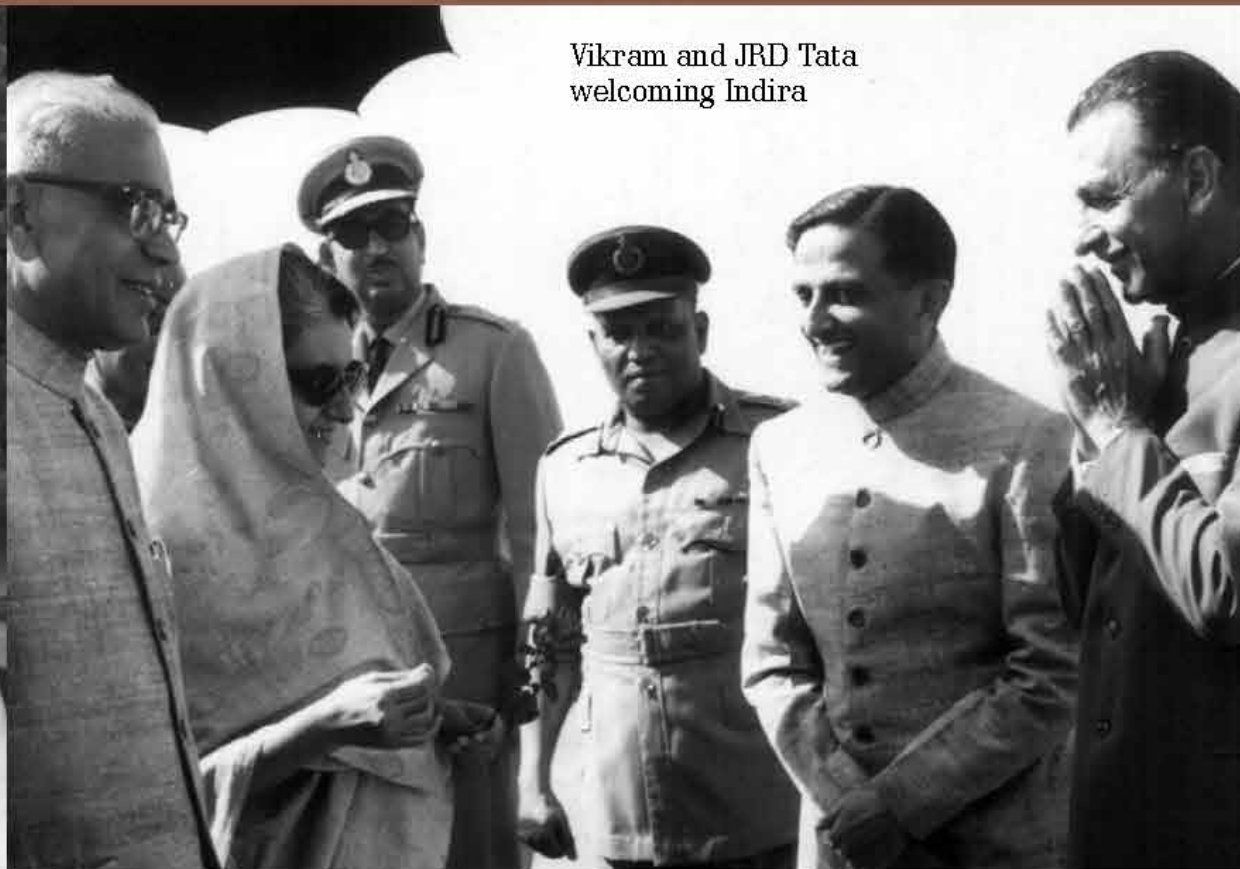


Vikram introducing Glenn Seaborg, US
Atomic Energy Chairman, 1967



Vikram with Glenn Seaborg, US
Atomic Energy Chairman, 1971

PM Indira Gandhi visit to rechristen AEET to BARC, 1968



Vikram and JRD Tata
welcoming Indira

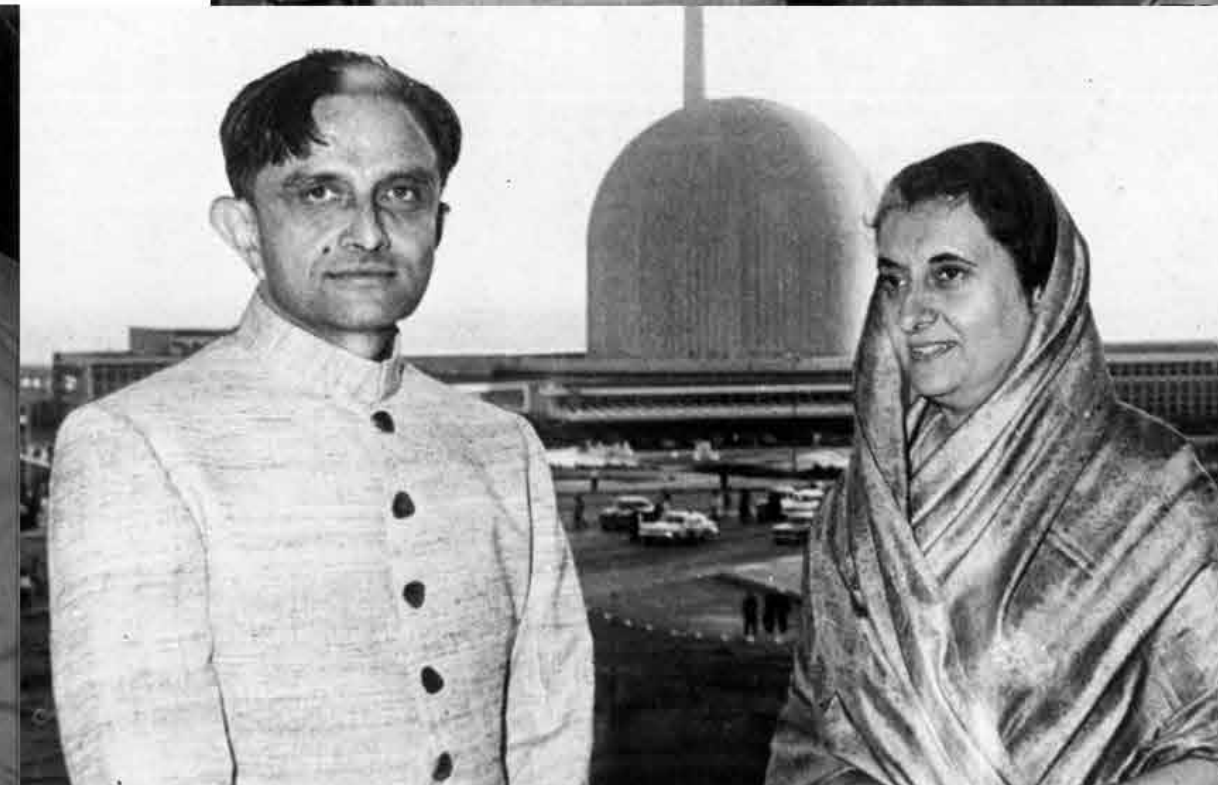


Explaining about
Cirus reactor

Brahmaprakash explaining to Indira



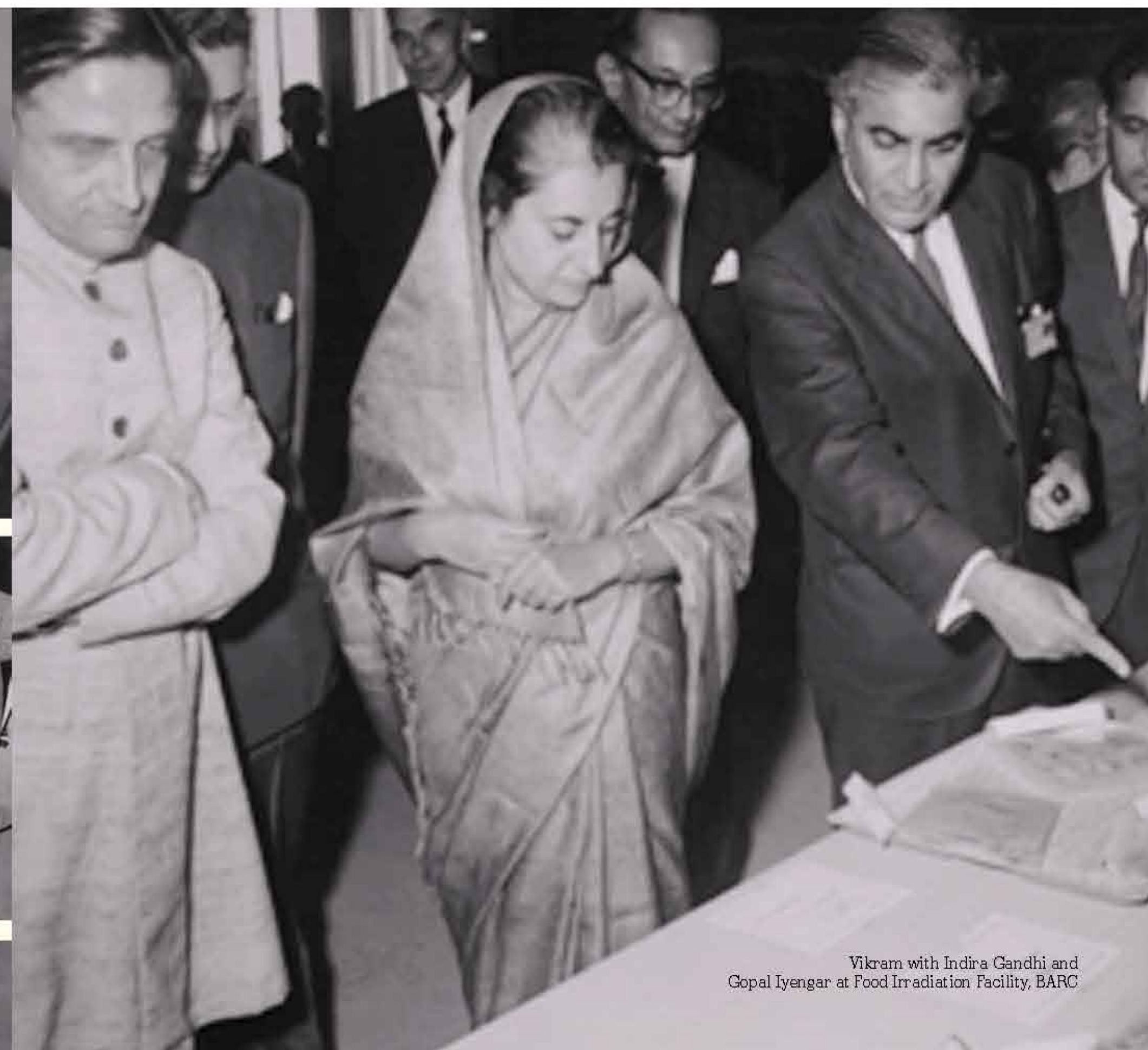
AS Rao and Vikram explaining about Electronics prototype facility



Vikram with Indira Gandhi and A S Rao at
Electronics Prototype Manufacturing Facility, BARC



Vikram with Indira Gandhi and J R D Tata listening to
MR Srinivasan on Glove Box system



Vikram with Indira Gandhi and
Gopal Iyengar at Food Irradiation Facility, BARC

Dedication of Tharapur to nation in
January 1970







Sarabhai with Indira Gandhi and V P Naik, CM of Maharashtra













Dr. Vikram Sarabhai with Shri C R Ramamurthy and Dr. Brahm Prakash inspecting the progress of the works at Kalpakkam site.



Selection of site for electronics production facility at Hyderabad





Apollo-11 Astronauts who visited TIFR on 26 October, 1969 in the foyer of the Homi J Bhabha Auditorium, Michael Collins, HN Sethna, US Ambassador Kenneth Keating, MGK Menon, Neil Armstrong, Edwin Aldrin, Vikram Sarabhai



Vikram and Neil Armstrong





Inspecting TERLS:
Sarabhai, Eswardas,
YJ Rao, R D John,
Aravamudan,
HGS Murthy





Vikram Sarabhai and HGS Murthy looking at Moon Rock



Two-stage American Sounding Rocket, Nike-Apache launch on 21st November, 1963 at Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station (TERLS) marked as the birth of Indian Space Programme.



The launch station was established at Thumba named as TERLS (Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station) with range and telemetry systems. After a remarkable effort in setting up the infrastructure, the inaugural flight was launched on November 21, 1963, with a sodium vapour payload. Several agencies from USA, France, UK etc., started accessing the TERLS for scientific experiments and the site was dedicated to UN in the year 1968.



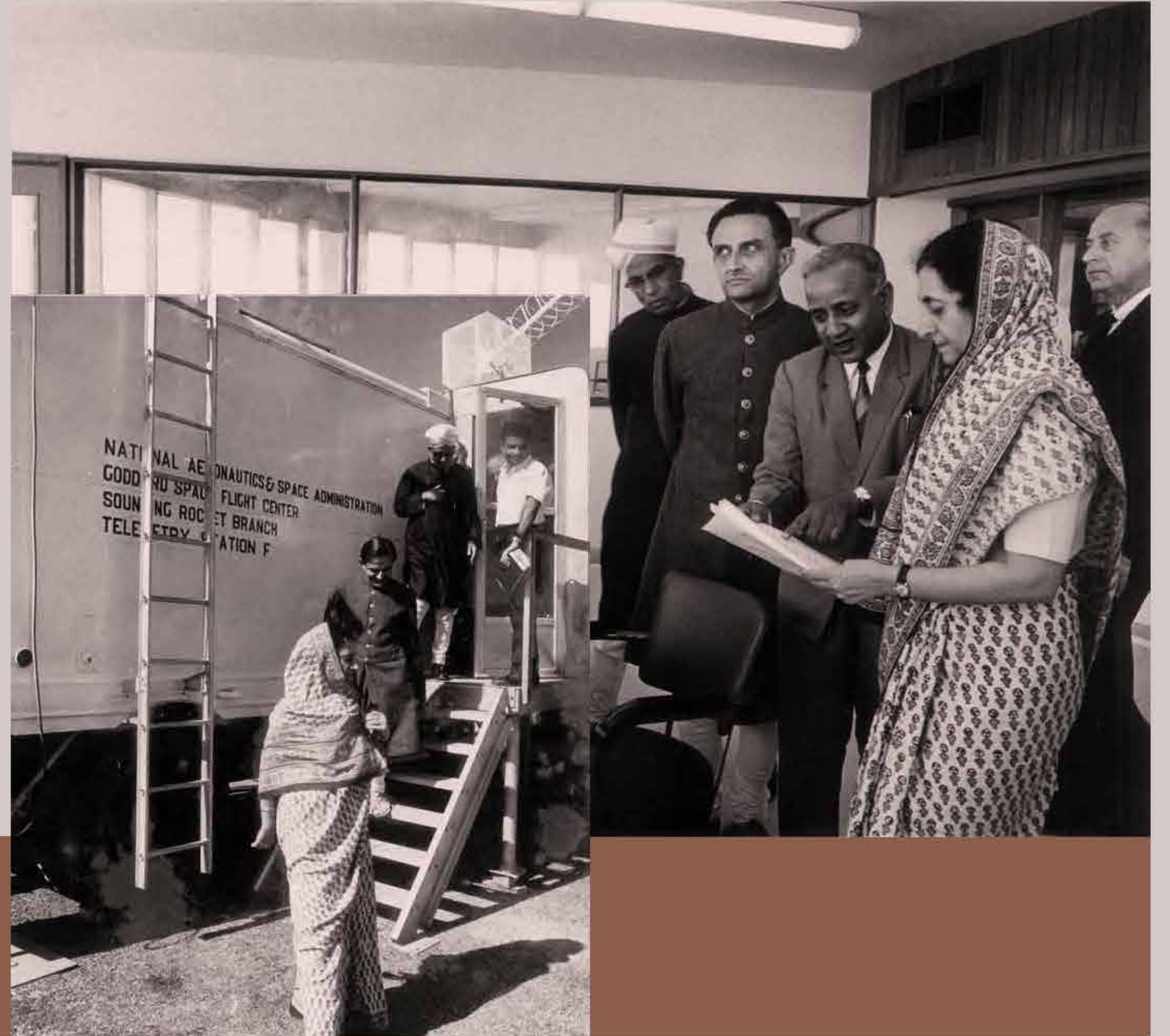
Kalam and YJ Rao explaining to Sarabhai at SSTC.

Sarabhai with his trusted team: YJ Rao, HGS Murthy, Esawardas, Aravamudan, SC Gupta, Madhavan Nair and others



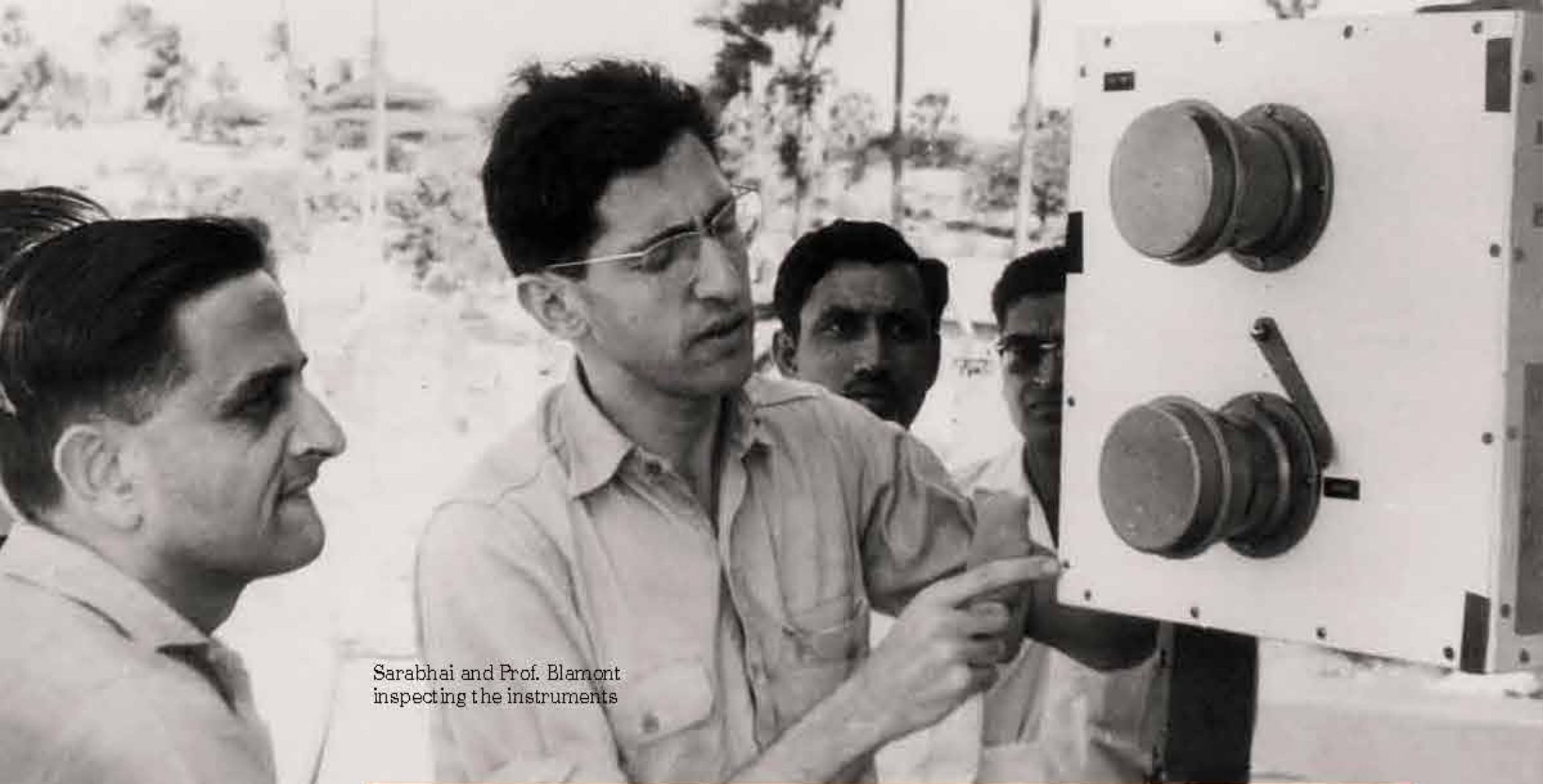


Visit of Prime Minister
Indira Gandhi to TERLS,
on dedication to UN



Dedication of TERLS to the United Nations

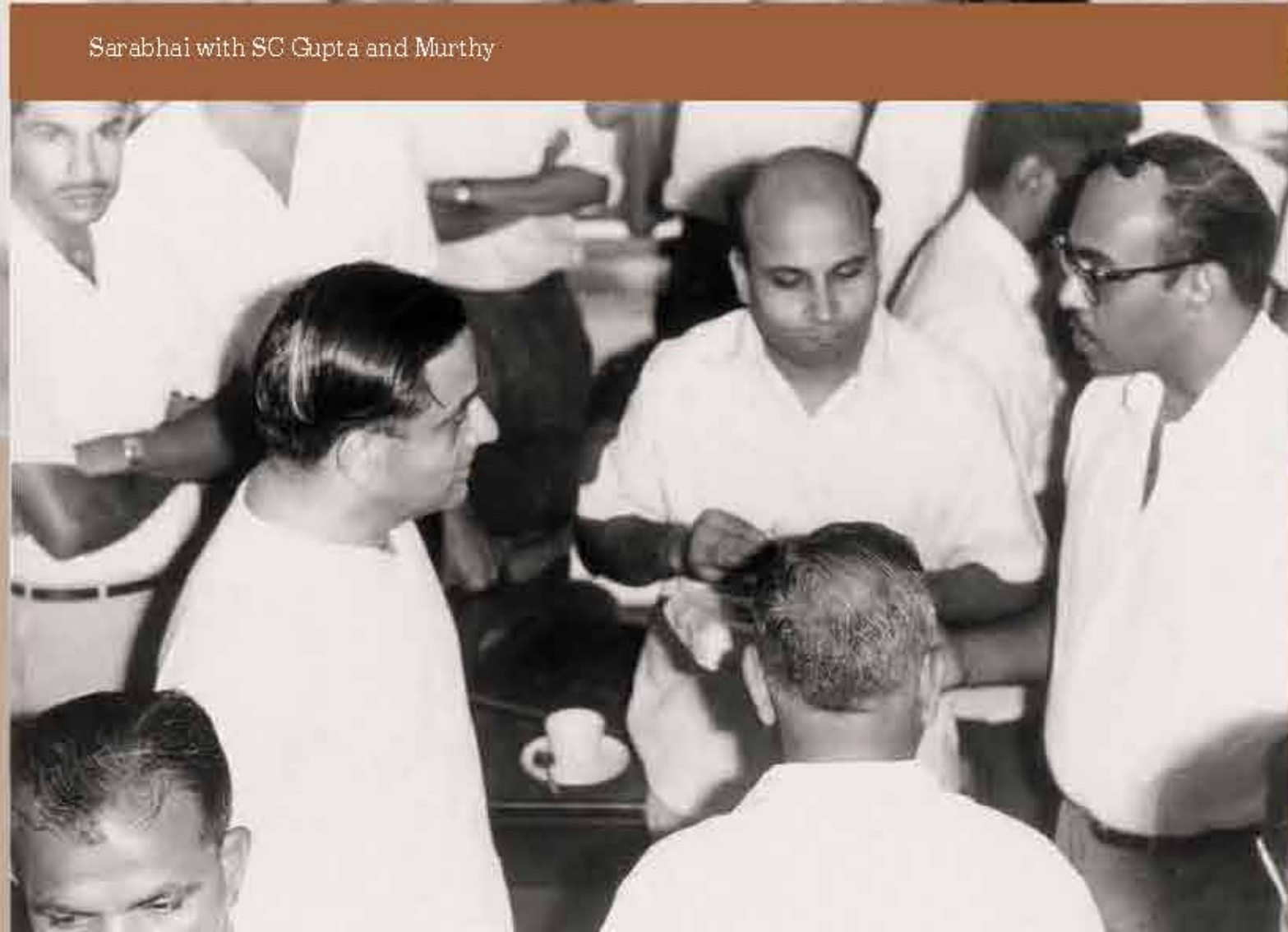




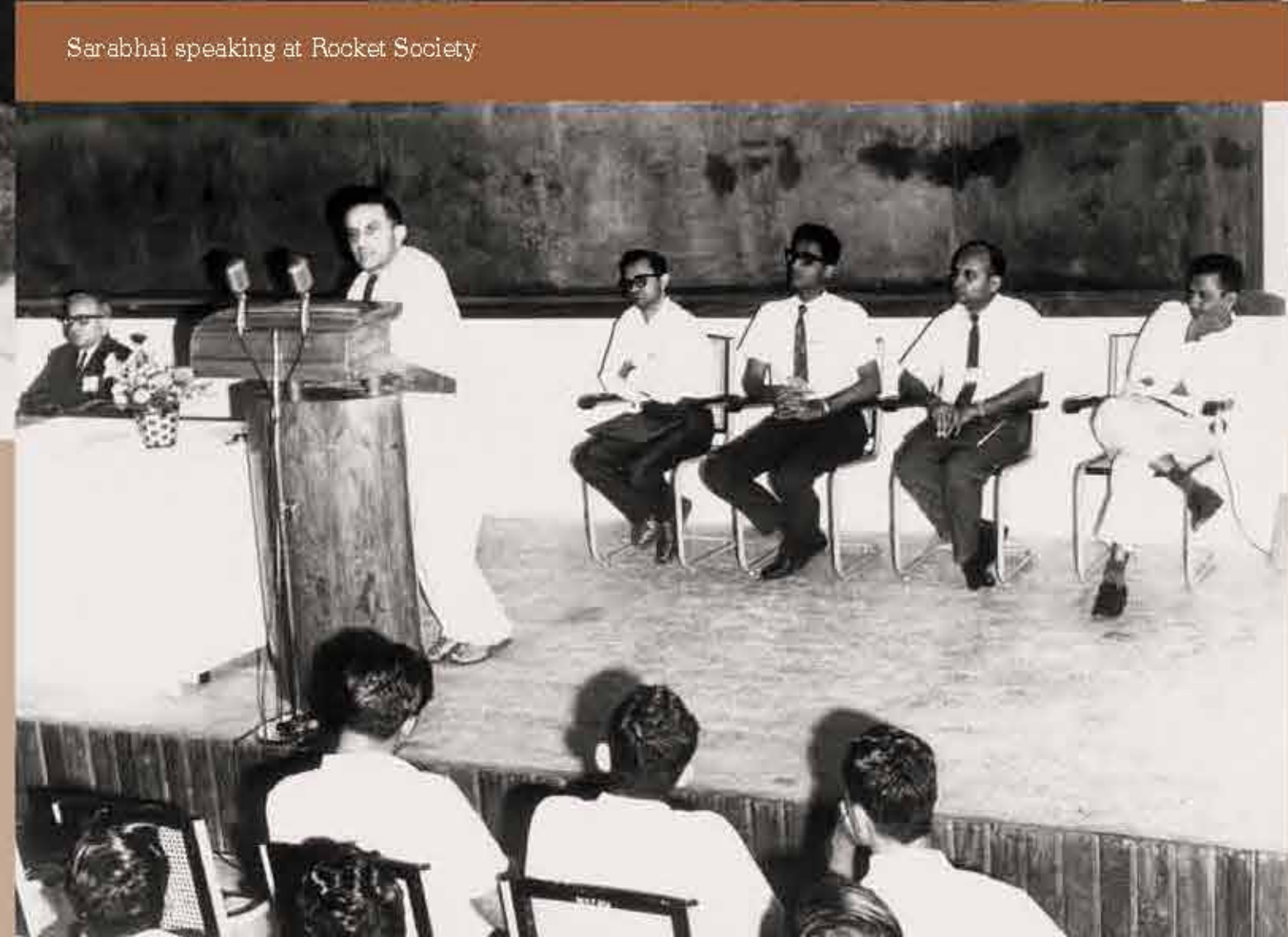
Sarabhai and Prof. Blariont
inspecting the instruments



Sarabhai speaking at Rocket Society



Sarabhai with SC Gupta and Murthy



Sarabhai inspecting
the site for new
launching station at
Sriharikota Island.
Murthy, YJ Rao and
RD John following
Sarabhai





Delos Symposia of the
Athens Centre
of Ekistics, in 1968



Sarabhai led the delegation to Japan.

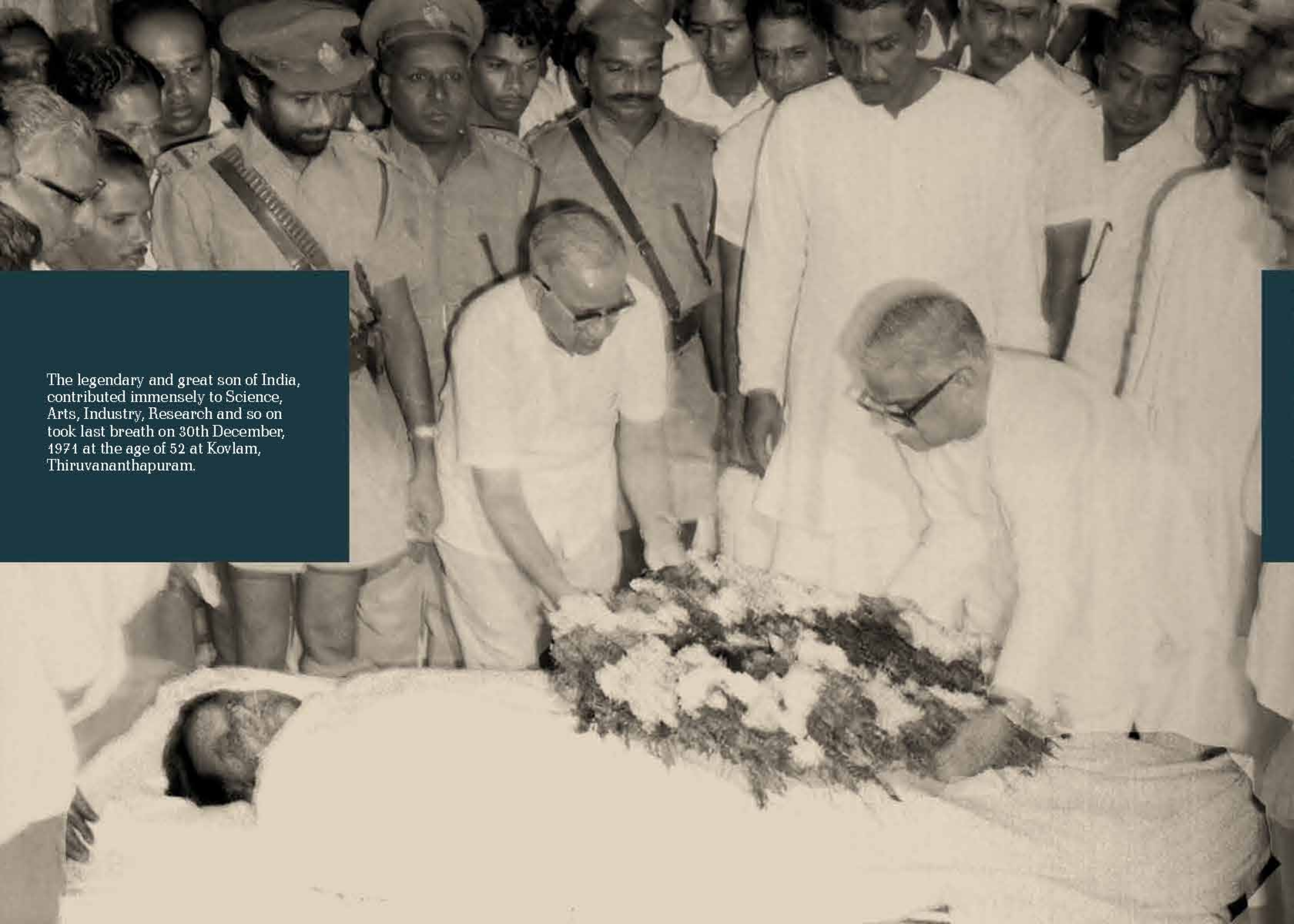




Foundation stone laying ceremony of Thumba Railway Station by Sri Hanumanthaiah, Minister of Railways on 28 December 1971.



The legendary and great son of India, contributed immensely to Science, Arts, Industry, Research and so on took last breath on 30th December, 1971 at the age of 52 at Kovlam, Thiruvananthapuram.





"The social impact of innovative man has hit society like an avalanche. Scientific advances and technological innovations along with their social and political implications have suddenly overtaken the pace of human life cycle and produced a crisis of obsolescence".

- Dr Vikram Ambalal Sarabhai



The photos of Dr Vikram Ambalal Sarabhai are memories kept alive and cherished by the two esteemed agencies of Government of India, Department of Space and Department of Atomic Energy (DAE).

Photo Credits: Vikram Sarabhai Archives, Nehru Foundation for Development-Ahmedabad, TIFR-Mumbai, BARC, DAE-Mumbai, PRL-Ahmedabad, CV Raman Institute-Bengaluru, IISc-Bengaluru.



Capacity Building Programme Office (CBPO)

Indian Space Research Organisation
Department of Space, Government of India
Antariksh Bhavan, New BEL Road, Bangalore 560094